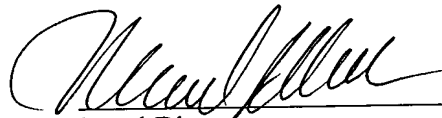


REMARKS

The claims have been amended prior to examination in accordance with U.S. practice. Specifically, Claims 1-16 have been amended to delete references to numbers shown in the drawings since the claims are not so limited. In addition, Claims 1-16 have been amended to delete or replace the phrase "characterized in that" with "wherein," to conform with U.S. practice. Former method Claim 1 has been amended to recite the method steps in gerund form in accordance with U.S. practice.

Formerly multiple dependent Claims 4, 6, 8, 11, 12 and 14 have been amended to depend solely from independent Claim 1. Formerly multiple dependent Claim 10 has been amended to depend solely from Claim 8, and formerly multiple dependent Claim 7 has been amended to depend solely from Claim 4, in order to eliminate multiple dependencies. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by these amendments, and respectfully request entry thereof prior to examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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